

Owen County Board of Commissioners  
Minutes-March 6, 2023

Meeting was called to order by President Gary Burton.

Opening Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Members Present: Gary Burton, Bob Curry, and Joel Lowe. Also, Attorney Dana Kerr and Auditor Sheila Reeves.

Public sign in sheet attached for permanent record.

A motion to approve the minutes from February 28<sup>th</sup>-Joint Work Session Comprehensive Plan was made by Bob Curry; seconded by Joel Lowe. Carried 3-0.

A motion to approve the minutes from February 28<sup>th</sup>-Special Highway Meeting was made by Bob Curry; seconded by Joel Lowe. Carried 3-0.

A motion to pass on the minutes from February 22<sup>nd</sup> Regular Meeting until the next meeting with a small change requested by Mr. Burton was made by Bob Curry.

A motion was made to approve Payroll-\$253,697.56 by Bob Curry; seconded by Joel Lowe. Carried 3-0.

A motion to approve Regular Claims-\$242,192.24 was made by Joel Lowe; seconded by Bob Curry. Carried 3-0.

A motion to approve Out of Cycle-\$216,730.14 was made by Bob Curry; seconded by Joel Lowe. Carried 3-0.

Copies of the Employee Absences Report and LOW Funds Financial Report was provided for their review.

Old Business-

Paycor Payroll Review was given by Joel Lowe. He related he had set in on a work session with the representative from Paycor and has received likes and dislikes and there was a decent line of questioning and he is somewhat undecided on it either way at this time, and it is going to Council on the 13<sup>th</sup> for consideration.

ARPA Funds-no discussion

New Business-

Insurance Representative John Parmley presented spreadsheets/options/quotes on County Insurance Policies for Liability, Workmen's Comp, Cyber Security, Flooding, and Earthquake. They had gone out on the market to several companies for rates. Based on the information given, a motion was made by Gary Burton; seconded by Bob Curry to take the recommendation for Liberty Mutual with a cost savings of \$15000 from Mr. Parmley. Motion carried 3-0. Some locations of coverage will be looked at and updated if needed.

Long Property Rezone-Attorney Dana Kerr gave an update/review of the rezone presented. It has been through a motion of summary judgement and the Longs agreed that they no longer wanted to have an event barn. It was presented by the Commissioners to the Plan Commission with all proper notices given per IC36-7-4-604b and IC36-7-4-604c at a Public Hearing on February 21<sup>st</sup>. A copy of the findings to rezone from Business to Agricultural for the property commonly known as 770 N. County Line Rd W., Clay City, IN 47841 presented and read aloud by Mr. Kerr as Ordinance 2023-003 to amend the Owen County Zoning and Subdivision Control Ordinance. A motion to approve the Ordinance was made by Bob Curry; seconded by Joel Lowe. Carried 3-0.

Health Department-Christine McBride presented two Certificate of Appointments for the County Board of Health. A motion to re-appoint Christine Hutson was made by Burton; seconded by Curry. Carried 3-0.

A motion to approve Kimberly Shay Bales was made by Lowe; seconded by Curry. Carried 3-0.

Copies were signed and Ms. McBride and will send the original to the State and copies to the Auditor.

Grant Request-Dale Walker requested to have EMA Director Jack White apply for an Owen County Community Foundation Grant that is due by Friday-10<sup>th</sup> for the Radio System Countywide. A motion to approve for EMA Director Jack White to apply for the Grant was made by Joel Lowe; seconded by Bob Curry. Carried 3-0.

Highway Superintendent Greg Melton began with the Friday Storms that caused flash flooding and multiple trees down throughout the County caused for him and his crews to be out continuously since Friday and thanked them all for their hard work. Issues with signs being stolen on County Line Rd were reported but he assured them that himself and Tim Newton had set them. Mr. Burton asked about Lewisville Rd area. Melton related that Putnam County takes care of their side. Since 2019 there has been issues and in early 2020 Flood Gates had been requested and denied by Putnam County. Added that Owen County Emergency Personnel are who respond EMS/Rescue/Sheriff. Noting that there were two water rescues there over the weekend. Attorney Kerr is going to contact Putnam County Attorney regarding the concerns.

Mr. Melton asked Commissioner's to table the Bids that had been received due to the weekend storms and workload he had not been able to review them. A motion to call a Special Meeting on March 9<sup>th</sup> @2pm in the Commissioners Rm-Courthouse was made by Bob Curry; seconded by Joel Lowe. Carried 3-0.

Elected Officials-

EMS Director Cris Lunsford related that five water related rescues had been made since Friday. He asked members to consider reimbursement to the Rescue Team as they respond to multiple county events. Commissioners agreed to pursue options like a billing system.

He next asked about the Fire Extinguisher Certification by HFI and was working with Steve to confirm that the backflow preventer was done last year.

Auditor-Reeves explained that they had received Elevator Inspections with Violation for no Permits. Permits were obtained last April and was approved for annually. In moving forward, it was agreed to receive a credit but to now apply annually each calendar year starting in January.

Also, was a copy of requests from Misty Morning Campground regarding Roads and Mailboxes. It was given to them for review and Kerr will follow up with a path moving forward.

Attorney-No additional comments were made.

Commissioners-

Coroner Shelby Hershberger had requested permission to be on the agenda regarding purchasing of a new Vehicle. She had sent word to Mr. Lowe that she does not have those quotes ready to present. Mr. Burton added that one possibility of using the Opioid Settlements Funds that the County received could be used toward the purchase.

Joel Lowe began discussion regarding the need for a Generator System (for over twelve years now) to be installed that would be able to handle the vital circuitry needs for IT, Lighting, and Receptacles and allow the Courthouse to stay open during power outages and is fully monitored with weekly exercises. The location of the unit will be on the eastside of the building close to the gas meter. Choosing either option would not include the elevators or heating and cooling. He then made it known that the two quotes presented carried his families last name, but he is not a member of that business and he had reached out to other companies with no response from them. He will be spear-heading the entire process making sure the installation is correct. Bob Curry noted that a Conflict-of-Interest Form has been signed and on file. Attorney Kerr related that if is under the \$50000 cap and is permissible to approve. The two quotes for equipment from Kohler 38KW-\$1944 and Briggs and Stratton 35KW-\$19700 were provided for consideration with Lowe Sales LLC. A motion to accept the Kohler 38KW-\$19944 quote was made by Gary Burton; seconded by Bob Curry. Motion passed with a 2-0-1abstention/Lowe and to be paid from Cum Cap Funds.

A motion to adjourn was made by Gary Burton; seconded by Bob Curry. Carried 3-0.